

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: AFTERNOON WIRE AND TV REPORTAGE, OCT 11, 1974.

FOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

AFTERNOON WIRE SERVICES -- AP AND UPI CONTINUE TO DISCUSS ANATOMY OF SHOOTING ACCIDENT; UPI REMARKING THAT HAK, UNAFFECTED BY INCIDENT, DISCUSSED THE FUTURE OF ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD. UPI REPORTS HAK'S TALKS IN DAMASCUS WERE EXPECTED TO BE THE TOUGHEST IN HIS SEVEN NATION TOUR AND THAT THE TALKS RAN MUCH LONGER THAN EXPECTED. REUTER QUOTES HAK SAYING THAT HIS TALKS WITH THE SYRIAN LEADERS WERE "GOOD AND CONSTRUCTIVE." ASKED WHETHER PROSPECTS FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE WERE GOOD, HAK IS REPORTED TO HAVE REPLIED: "I AM ALWAYS ENCOURAGED." UPI AND AP REPORT SAME COMMENTS, UPI ADDING HAK'S REMARKS THAT HE WILL RETURN TO DAMASCUS FOR A FEW HOURS ON MONDAY.

. ABC-TV: REASONER/KOPPEL:(5 MINUTES INTO PROGRAM)

REASONER: SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER TODAY ENDED TALKS WITH EGYPT'S PRESIDENT SADAT AND FLEW ON TO SYRIA AND JORDAN. HE WAS DELAYED FOR A SHORT TIME BY AN ACCIDENTAL SHOOTING ON HIS PLANE. AS THE JET TAXIED FOR TAKEOFF IN
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CAIRO, A MACHINE GUN FELL OFF THE RACK, DISCHARGED AND

WOUNDED A SECURITY AGENT. THE AGENT, WALTER BOTHE, WAS ONLY SLIGHTLY INJURED IN THE ARM AND HAND AND CONTINUED ON THE

TRIP. KISSINGER, ONLY 20 FEET AWAY WHEN THE GUN WENT OFF, RECOUNTED THE INCIDENT FOR REPORTERS, INCLUDING ABC'S TED KOPPEL. (KISSINGER STATEMENT TO PRESS AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED FOLLOWED.)

KOPPEL: BOTHE WAS IN FACT WELL ENOUGH TO GET OFF THE PLANE IN DAMASCUS WITHOUT ASSISTANCE. (FILM CLIP). BUT AN INDICATION OF THE DEEP-SEATED SUSPICION THAT COVERS EVERY EVENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST WAS TO BE FOUND IN THE REPORTS FILED BY SEVERAL SYRIAN NEWSMEN WHO DISMISSED THE SHOOTING AS A KISSINGER MANUEVER CREATED TO DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM THE CENTRAL ISSUE. IT IS THIS ATMOSPHERE OF SUSPICION THAT KISSINGER IS TRYING TO DISPEL AMONG ARAB LEADERS LIKE SYRIA'S PRESIDENT ASSAD. (FILM CLIP OF KISSINGER AND ASSAD)

3. NBC-TV CHANCELLOR/VALERIANI (HALFWAY THROUGH PROGRAM): CHANCELLOR: IN CAIRO TODAY SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER'S PLANE WAS TAXIING FOR A TAKEOFF TO DAMASCUS WHEN A SECURITY SUBMACHINE GUN FELL OUT OF A RACK. THE FALL MADE THE GUN GO OFF; THE BULLET GRAZED ONE OF THE SECRET SERVICE AGENTS TRAVELING WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND KEPT ON GOING THROUGH THE SKIN OF THE PLANE. THE ACCIDENT DELAYED THE FLIGHT TO SYRIA, BUT ONLY BRIEFLY.

VALERIANI: WHEN KISSINGER'S PLANE LANDED IN DAMASCUS, THE BULLET HOLE IN THE TOP REAR OF THE FUSELAGE HAD BEEN PLUGGED UP AND THE WOUNDED AGENT, 33 YEAR OLD WALTER BOTHE, HAD BEEN TREATED FOR SUPERFICIAL FLESH WOUNDS ON HIS HEAD AND RIGHT ARM. HE GOT OFF THE PLANE UNDER HIS OWN POWER AND WAS TAKEN TO A LOCAL HOSPITAL FOR X-RAYS. THE ACCIDENTALLY FIRED BULLET MISSED KILLING HIM BY LESS THAN AN INCH. KISSINGER HIMSELF WAS STANDING ONLY ABOUT 20 FEET AWAY WHEN THE GUN WENT OFF. BUT HE DIDN'T RECOGNIZE THE NOISE OF THE GUNSHOT, AS HE EXPLAINED TO NEWSMEN AT DAMASCUS AIRPORT (KISSINGER STATEMENT FOLLOWED).

THE SHOOTING ACCIDENT TEMPORARILY OVERSHADOWED KISSINGER'S UNCLASSIFIED

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DIPLOMACY. HE CAME HERE FROM EGYPT TO SOOTHE SYRIA'S UNHAPPINESS ABOUT NOT BEING INCLUDED IN THE NEXT PHASE OF THE ME PEACE TALKS AND TO URGE PRESIDENT HAFEZ ASSAD TO BE PATIENT ABOUT GETTING THE PALESTINIANS INVOLVED. KISSINGER EXPECTS TO RETURN HERE ON MONDAY FOLLOWING HIS TALKS WITH ISRAELI LEADERS.

FROM DAMASCUS KISSINGER FLEW ON TO JORDAN, HIS THIRD ARAB

COUNTRY OF THE DAY. ON THIS MISSION KISSINGER IS EMPHASIZING ONCE AGAIN TO THE ARABS THAT PARTIAL PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE IS WORTHWHILE AND HE IS TRYING TO DISSUADE THEM FROM DOING ANYTHING RASH IN THE ABSENCE OF A QUICK

OVERALL SETTLEMENT. IF THAT APPROACH IS TO SUCCEED IT MUST BE RATIFIED BY THE ARAB SUMMIT MEETING IN MOROCCO ON OCT. 26. SO NO ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THIS TRIP ARE EXPECTED BEFORE THEN.

4. CBS-TV: CRONKITE (HALFWAY INTO PROGRAM)

SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER TOOK HIS LATEST ME PEACE SEEKING TOUR TO JORDAN THIS EVENING AFTER A DAY OF TALKS IN DAMASCUS THAT KISSINGER CALLED "VERY CONSTRUCTIVE". A NEWS BLACKOUT WAS IMPOSED ON HIS PREVIOUS TALKS WITH EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT WHICH LED TO SPECULATION KISSINGER FAILED TO ACHIEVE THERE ALL HE HAD HOPED.

KISSINGER'S DEPARTURE FROM CAIRO THIS MORNING WAS DELAYED ABOUT A HALF HOUR BECAUSE OF A MINOR SHOOTING INCIDENT INSIDE HIS AIR FORCE JET. A SECRET SERVICE SUBMACHINE GUN, AN ISRAEL-MADE UZZI, FELL FROM AN OVERHEAD RACK DURING TAKEOFF AND ACCIDENTALLY FIRED, WOUNDING SLIGHTLY AGENT WALTER BOTHE. IN DAMASCUS KISSINGER COMMENTED ON THE INCIDENT. (KISSINGER STATEMENT FOLLOWED.)

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